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Perhaps these cases would have been more convenient for reference, had they been printed at appropriate places as footnotes.

Among the errors which we have noticed, we may point out that the recognition of the French Republic by President Grant in 1870 is cited as the recognition of a new state (p. 45). It is said (p. 88) that the "United States interfered in the affairs of Cuba on the ground of humanity," thus implying that the legal ground of our intervention was humanity, when in fact it was the necessity of abating a nuisance—a sort of corollary of the principle of self-preservation. Likewise, in the case of Greece in 1827, the intervention is, in accordance with the popular but erroneous supposition, explained upon grounds of "humanity" (p. 87), although the powers, by the treaty of July 6, 1827, expressly declared that their object was to end a "sanguinary struggle" which, while it produced in Greece "all the disorders of anarchy, daily causes fresh impediments to commerce," and "gives opportunity for acts of piracy" which it was difficult to repress. We are told (p. 159) that "the old theory that [diplomatic] agents of the first rank had access to the ear of the sovereign is no longer held"; but this is the very ground on which the six ambassadors at Washington exercise the right of direct intercourse with the President. In summarizing Articles 50–52 of The Hague Convention relating to the laws of war, it is stated that "payment should be made for contributions." This seems to confuse contributions with requisitions. As may be seen by Article 51, receipts are given for "contributions," while requisitions either are paid for or are verified by receipts. Finally, the authors should have pointed out (p. 314), in connection with the rule as to convoy in the United States Naval War Code, that the American and English rules are directly contradictory, this being a fact of possibly great practical importance.

It should be added that the work appears generally to bring its topics up to date.

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The Little Red Book of Bristol. Published under the authority of the Council of the City and County of Bristol, and edited by FRANCIS B. BICKLEY. Bristol and London, 1900.—2 vols., 4to, xxxviii, 249, 283 pp.

To apply such a name as the "Little Red Book" to these two stately and sumptuous volumes is a paradox. It is explained, however, by the fact that they are the reproduction of a manuscript

volume among the records of Bristol that is traditionally known by that name. Various "Red Books," "Black Books" and "White Books" exist among the English town records, as well as in the national Exchequer. They obtained their names from the color of their bindings, and were simply manuscript books of formulas, charters, records and memoranda drawn up for the convenience of the city officials. The names have little or no significance, but the nature of the records preserved in them is such as to make them particularly valuable and interesting as sources of information concerning a life which has so largely passed away. This register of Bristol dates from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. It was used for more than a hundred and fifty years and then, being full, was superseded as a current book of entries by a certain "Great Red Book."

The matter it contains is of great variety, including all sorts of civic material, from forms of oaths to be taken by various city officials to a long treatise on the law merchant. This last document is an extremely interesting and hitherto unknown contribution to an obscure subject. It was no doubt suggested by the commercial interests of Bristol. As is well known, the trade of that town in the Middle Ages was extensive, including Iceland, Ireland and various parts of France, Spain and Portugal. On the whole its commerce has left less impress in this record book than might have been anticipated. This is no doubt due to the fact that most of the actual importers and exporters were foreigners, the English merchants confining themselves to selling goods to the foreigners who came for cargoes and buying from them the goods they brought. Nevertheless trade correspondence with other towns, matters of admiralty jurisdiction, a copy of the sea laws of Oléron and other such entries give testimony to the fact that Bristol was a commercial town.

On the other hand, the crafts and retail-trading bodies are fully represented. More than forty sets of ordinances of various trades are recorded in this book. The weavers, fullers, dyers, leather workers of various kinds, brewers, bakers, barbers and other artisans are continually appealing to the town authorities for the approval of various regulations, mostly in the direction of a monopoly of trade for the petitioners. The barbers complain that "tailors, weavers, fullers, mariners, smiths, cordwainers and others continually poll and shave" people in the town, and submit rules to prevent this and other intrusions upon their craft. Other trades do the same. Rules for apprenticeship, for oversight of work, for prices, for length of

service are continually being authorized by the town governors and entered in the "Little Red Book" for remembrance. A glimpse is also obtained of the lights at the shrines, the procession on Corpus Christi day and the meetings of the craftsmen in their halls on "midsomer, or All halowen" day.

Next most full to craft provisions are those for chantries. One of the most marked characteristics of the Middle Ages was the large number of endowments great and small bequeathed for the purpose of keeping up perpetual prayers for the souls of the donors and their relations. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries very many such foundations were established by merchants in connection with town churches. Charitable objects were also frequently provided for by assigning some of the property to the support of poor persons or to the giving of doles. At Bristol a quite appreciable proportion of the houses and shops of the town were in the possession of trustees for the carrying out of such bequests, and the "Red Book" shows the minute provisions made for administration of these trusts in cases where the mayor was concerned. It was this condition of property that offered such a temptation to the government when the Reformation sentiment had undermined approval of the objects for which the bequests had been made, and led finally to their confiscation and dissolution.

Quite apart from the interesting material for the study of mediæval institutions which this publication makes accessible, the book is a striking example of a clearly marked recent tendency in England. A generation ago the materials for the study of the history of municipalities were almost inaccessible. Local histories were, generally speaking, uncritical and devoted to mere antiquarianism. A few works like Cooper's *Annals of Cambridge* or Thompson's *Leicester* were made up almost altogether from the town records and, incomplete as they were, rose in usefulness so much above the others that they came to be quoted in England and abroad as if these were the typical towns of England. A few years ago, however, the town authorities began to awaken to the interest and value of their old manuscript records, and one after another of them has entered upon an enlightened policy of printing the records in full or abundant selections from them. The work has usually been placed in the hands of competent editors and, as the municipalities are wealthy, the books have been printed in handsome, often even in luxurious, form. The result has been the appearance of a series of noble volumes, like the records of Nottingham, of Leicester and this

volume from Bristol. Historical students of the twentieth century may well congratulate themselves on their advantage over those of the nineteenth.

The editorial work of Mr. Bickley, so far as it can be judged of, seems to have been done very well. Careful transcription, literal translation, judicious selection, brief but suggestive introductory remarks, the occasional footnote explanation or cross reference, and all of the many phases of the important but inconspicuous work of an editor give every indication of excellence of performance. It is a valuable record, well brought out through every stage, even up to that of the printer and the binder.

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Municipal Engineering and Sanitation. By M. N. BAKER.

The Citizens' Library. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1902. — viii, 317 pp.

Mr. Baker, as a civil engineer and associate editor of the *Engineering News*, is entitled to speak with authority on his subject. His book is a brief but comprehensive discussion of those many public or quasi-public functions falling under the general terms "engineering" and "sanitation," which are so immensely important to the well-being of city dwellers. The wide scope of these functions may be judged by the fact that the volume contains no less than forty-three chapters, each covering a fairly distinct subject. Several valuable chapters are the work of Mrs. Baker.

The author takes very high ground, not merely as to the number of the services which the city government should render, but also as to the quality of those services. Not his least contribution is the force with which he brings home the dependence of the comfort, the convenience and especially of the health of the citizens upon the performance, and the best performance, of functions which are possible only through collective action. He does not waste time in abstract discussion of the proper limitations of direct public action or of public control, but assumes that whatever the municipal government can do to increase the welfare of the people it may and should do. Mr. Baker lays much emphasis, too, on the desirability of proper regard to æsthetic values in the construction of public works.

After setting forth the nature of the service which the citizen has the right to demand in each field, the author describes in simple but